

Amendments to the Drawings

Kindly replace drawing sheet 6/7 with the attached "Replacement Sheet", in order to label Fig. 12 as "Prior Art," and cancel sheet 7/7 which includes only a list of "Reference numerals in the drawings", in accordance with the attached copy of sheet 7/7 marked "Cancelled."

REMARKS

By this amendment, claims 1-3 and 5 have been cancelled, and claims 4 and 6-10 have been amended. Thus, claims 4 and 6-10 are now active in the application. Reexamination and reconsideration of the application are respectfully requested.

The specification and abstract have been carefully reviewed and revised to make grammatical and idiomatic improvements in order to aid the Examiner in further consideration of the application. The amendments to the specification and abstract are incorporated in the attached substitute specification and abstract. No new matter has been added.

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the specification and Abstract by the current amendment. The attachment is captioned "**Version with markings to show changes made.**"

In item 1 on page 2 of the Office Action, the Examiner required that Fig. 12 be labelled as "Prior Art". Accordingly, a replacement formal drawing for Fig. 12 is submitted herewith in order to so label Fig. 12 as "Prior Art". Additionally, drawing sheet 7/7 is cancelled, and a marked-up copy of sheet 7/7 marked "Cancelled" is submitted herewith.

In the second paragraph on page 2 of the Office Action, the Examiner required a new title of the invention more clearly indicative of the claimed invention. Accordingly, the title has been changed to "Axial Flow Type Gas Laser Oscillator."

In item 2 on page 2 of the Office Action, claims 4 and 6 were objected to because the quantities representing QxP are not dimensionless. Accordingly, each of claims 4 and 6 has been amended to provide the dimensions $\text{Pa}\cdot\text{m}^3/\text{min}$.

In item 7 on page 5 of the Office Action, the Examiner kindly indicated that claims 4 and 6-10 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Accordingly, in order to expedite allowance of this application, claims 1-3 and 5 have been cancelled; claim 4 has been rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitations of claims 1-3; and claim 6 has been rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitations of claims 1, 2 and 5.

Also, minor amendments have been made to the claim language to improve the U.S. form, and to remove the word "means" by changing "laser gas circulation means" to --laser gas circulator-- to avoid interpretation of this limitation under 35 U.S.C. 112, sixth paragraph.

Thus, in view of the Examiner's indication of the allowability of claims 4 and 6-10, and the above-noted amendments, it is submitted that the application is now clearly in condition for allowance, and an early notice thereof is earnestly solicited.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is clearly in condition for allowance. An early notice thereof is earnestly solicited.

If, after reviewing this Amendment, the Examiner feels there are any issues remaining which must be resolved before the application can be passed to issue, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner contact the undersigned by telephone in order to resolve such issues.

Respectfully submitted,

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August 3, 2006

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Reference numerals in the drawings

- 1 Discharge tube
- 2, 3 Electrodes
- 4 Power source
- 5 Discharge space
- 6 Totally reflecting mirror
- 7 Partially reflecting mirror
- 8 Laser beam
- 9 Direction of laser gas flow
- 10 Laser gas passage
- 11, 12 Heat exchangers
- 13 Blower
- 14 Laser gas inlet section
- 15 Meshed screen plate
- 16 Seal part
- 17 Screen plate with a plurality of holes